



News from the City of Greenville

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PROPOSED CITY BUDGET INCLUDES EXPANDED SERVICE WITHOUT A TAX INCREASE

Greenville, SC... The City of Greenville City Manager's proposed FY 2005-06 operating budget includes expanding service in a balanced budget without increasing taxes.

According to City Manager James Bourey, the City's ability to increase the quality and scope of services with ever-increasing budget restraints can be attributed to city departments doing more within existing resources, economic growth and a conservative approach to setting the annual operating budget. He says, "It remains a challenge to provide the high level of service and the amenities available in the City of Greenville in today's economy. So, it is critical that the City operates as efficiently as possible looking for ever more creative ways to get work done. This is especially true since the State has reduced funding it provides to the city once again this year.

The budget for all funds is \$102,585,900, including a General Fund budget of \$56,376,102. The City has maintained a very strong General Fund balance despite a very modest increase in overall revenue. However, through the reorganization of city departments and the use of alternative funding sources, the City has been able to address this situation. The low growth in the General Fund can be attributed to the vehicle assessment rollback, the termination of the Traffic Action Program (TAP) and the mandated increase in contribution to the State Retirement System. In addition, the city absorbed a major increase in health care costs and other increases operational expenses. The total impact of these revenue reductions and cost increases meant the

city had to absorb an additional \$2,000,000 in its operating budget. The proposed budget is balanced despite this and the funding of increased services.

Highlights from the budget include:

- Expansion of Parks and Recreation services to meet the needs of increased demands as a result of the new landscaping on I-385, the Western Corridor, ICAR and RiverPlace.
- The addition of the Northside fire station which will improve response time and protection of the residents in that area and maintaining an average response time of three minutes throughout the City of Greenville
- Maintaining an average Police response time of just over six minutes and the excellent ratio of 3.3 officers per 1000 residents.
- Allocation of \$500,000 for the resurfacing of city streets.
- Funding of \$500,000 for new sidewalks and \$100,000 for repair of sidewalks in city neighborhoods.
- A plan to develop an on-line bill paying system for the convenience of those doing business with the city.